Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for predicting and scoring an unemployment probability for an individual employee, comprising the steps of:

collecting by the computer, personal data related to said individual employee;

collecting by the computer, national employment, ~~and~~ unemployment, and economic data; ~~and~~

calculating by the computer, an unemployment risk score for said individual employee based upon the collected personal data and the collected national employment, ~~and~~ unemployment, and economic data; and

generating by the computer, an unemployment insurance premium for the individual employee based on the calculated unemployment risk score.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said employee personal data is selected from the group consisting of education, age, gender, job industry, job type, job tenure, salary,

employment and unemployment history, geographical location, unemployment insurance claims and benefits history, income characteristics, and credit characteristics.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said national employment, ~~and~~ unemployment, and economic data is selected from the group consisting of historical national employment and unemployment figures, involuntary unemployment figures, government unemployment insurance claims, government unemployment insurance claim acceptance rates, government unemployment insurance benefit payment rates and amounts, duration of government unemployment insurance claims, federal and state unemployment insurance fund data, and government insurance program policies and guidelines, and non-government data.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of computing an unemployment risk score further comprises the steps of:

segmenting a national workforce population into risk categories, each risk category comprising a plurality of individual risk subcategories; and

assigning a risk factor weight relative to a forecasted national employment rate for each of said plurality of risk subcategories within each risk category.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said unemployment risk categories are selected from the group consisting of education, industry, age, gender, occupation, state, region, income, work experience, training level, work performance, job change frequency, industry

change frequency, historical unemployment data, unemployment severity, job necessity, debt-to-income ratio, expenses-to-income ratio, and job confidence.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of: computing an employment security score from said unemployment risk score.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of: computing a short term and a long term employment value based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of unemployment risk scores, unemployment rates, current income, expected income growth, expected duration of employment, expected education level, expected job changes, current and future cost of living projections, job change history, and income history.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein said forecasted national unemployment rates are generated based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of consumer price index, producer price index, interest rates, trade balance, housing starts, industrial production, currency exchange rates, retail sales, personal income and credit, consumer expenditure, industry capacity utilization, government spending, capital spending, consumer confidence and ~~other economic~~ non-government data.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of: ~~offering~~ generating by the computer, a report having a plurality of different unemployment insurance options ~~to~~ for said individual employee based on said calculated unemployment risk score and said assigned risk factor weights, wherein the unemployment options each include a policy type,

coverage, the unemployment insurance premium, compensation amount, compensation payment duration, beginning of compensation payment period, ending of compensation payment period, and policy premium amount.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of establishing a risk-based private unemployment insurance for an individual employee~~employees~~, comprising the steps of:

predicting by the computer, unemployment rates and computing unemployment risk scores for each of a plurality of homogeneous employment risk segments;

determining by the computer, a range of insurance benefits levels available for each of the plurality of employment risk segments;

calculating by the computer, a base risk-based premium price for each benefit level of each homogeneous employment risk ~~class~~ segment; and

offering by the computer, a plurality of unemployment insurance policy options to ~~an~~ the individual employee based upon the risk ~~class~~ segment to which the individual employee belongs to provide an individually tailored unemployment insurance policy option for the individual employee.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said determination of benefits is calculated based upon a mechanism selected from the group consisting of historical

unemployment rates, forecasted unemployment rates, unemployment risk factors and unemployment risk scores.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the plurality of benefits include an employee selection of benefits options selected from the group consisting of compensation amount, compensation payment duration, beginning of compensation payment periods, ending of compensation payment periods, and policy premium amount.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said unemployment insurance is offered as primary coverage to employees with no existing insurance coverage.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said unemployment insurance is offered as supplemental coverage to employees with existing insurance coverage.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said insurance policy premium price is paid by the employee and where no contribution is required either from employers or government.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said premium price is adjusted based on data selected from the group consisting of insurance provider's historical policies data, number of policies offered and written, policy acceptance rates, policy duration, policy prices, policy costs, number of claims made and accepted, duration and amount of claims, payout ratio data, loss amount and rates, and fraud amount and rates for each defined category of employees.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the steps of: issuing eligibility guidelines; and requiring proof that the employee meets the eligibility guidelines and satisfactory proof of involuntary unemployment.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the premium price is reduced for a renewal policy.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein satisfactory proof of employee's involuntary unemployment is based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of employee's termination or involuntary unemployment documents from ~~employee's employer~~a verifiable source, employee's eligibility for government unemployment insurance, and government unemployment benefits payment records.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of: adjusting the premium price based on credits and discounts awarded to the employee if the employee demonstrates good employment and premium payment record for a given period of time.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said base premium price is calculated based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of adverse selection risk, prospects, moral hazard risk, business risks, profit margin, promotion pricing, strategic significance, and business costs.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of: determining involuntary unemployment rates and associated insurance risk, adverse selection risk, moral

hazard risk, unemployment insurance coverage terms, applicable benefit levels, premiums, and insurance offer acceptance criteria for defined employee categories and risk classes based on a computer-based mechanism selected from the group consisting of mathematical techniques, formulae, algorithms, forecasting and analysis tools, statistical models, software applications and models that drive a risk-based insurance pricing method.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the amount of said benefits is adjusted based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of employee's satisfactory premium payments, policy record, policy validity, deductible payment, and completion of a defined base period, or a waiting period, which is a predetermined duration after the employee is accepted and enrolled into the unemployment insurance program.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of: establishing by the computer, an ~~a computer based method for administering~~ unemployment risk score, employment security score, short term and long term employment value, employee application for unemployment insurance, risk-based pricing determination, risk classes determination process, approval process, unemployment risk determination process, coverage and premium determination process, claim processing and validation, benefits administration process, periodic review of unemployment status and benefits duration determination process, coverage expiry determination process, policy renewal process, discount and credit evaluation and renewal application process, records storage process, records update process, algorithm update process, historical and forecast trends update process, risk score adjustments process, risk

categories update process, benefits and terms and conditions update process, and organizational structuring process, to provide individualized unemployment insurance options directly to the individual employee.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of providing unemployment risk mitigation solutions, income loss protection solutions, and employment opportunity maximization solutions for employees, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

scoring by the computer, unemployment risk, employment security, and short term and long term employment value, and calculating unemployment risk scores, employment security scores, and employment value scores for employees based on employees' ~~employee's~~ personal data, macroeconomic data and national unemployment data;

establishing by the computer, a risk-based unemployment insurance pricing and premium calculation ~~based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of a plurality of computer based scoring models and programs, mathematical models, statistical techniques, neural networks, financial and actuarial methods, algorithms, historical and forecasted employment data, unemployment data, industry data, macroeconomic data, databases, computer systems, computer networks, data libraries, data exchange software, score generation models, and forecasting techniques leading to the development of a private unemployment insurance program~~;

determining by the computer, a multitude of insurance policy types for different applicant risk classes and unemployment risk scores, ~~giving the potential insurance purchaser~~ to provide a choice in terms of policy benefits for varying levels of premium amounts;

determining by the computer, ~~making private unemployment insurance available to employees in the form of either~~ a primary unemployment insurance policy and ~~or~~ a supplementary unemployment insurance policy~~, or both, to those employees who may or may not be covered by government unemployment insurance program~~;

determining at the computer, unemployment policy premiums and benefits for the primary and secondary unemployment insurance policies based on ~~a mechanism selected from the group consisting of~~ employee personal data, employment history, employer data, credit data and/or national employment data;

computing at the computer, unemployment policy premiums and benefits based on ~~a mechanism selected from the group consisting of~~one or more of the employees' current and past unemployment rates, government unemployment insurance claims, claim acceptance rates, government insurance benefits payments rates and amounts, duration of new government unemployment insurance claims and continued claims, employers contribution to payroll taxes, federal and state unemployment insurance fund data, fraud data pertaining to government unemployment insurance program, and government insurance program's policies and guidelines;

determining at the computer, ~~structuring~~ an unemployment policy premium, terms and conditions for each of the primary and secondary unemployment insurance policies based on ~~a mechanism selected from the group consisting of~~ data related to employer's historical employment rate, weekly and yearly wages, applicable Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes, other industry classifications, unemployment rates, payroll taxes, future changes in recruitment, future layoffs, company outlook, and/or industry outlook; and

managing, administering and coordinating by the computer, ~~the~~ an insurance program such that employees would be able to choose from ~~a variety of~~ the primary and secondary unemployment insurance ~~programs~~ policies with various levels of benefits, payment durations and duration types~~, that meets their needs, in addition to, or lack of, federal-state unemployment insurance; and~~

~~providing unemployment insurance based on a mechanism selected from the group consisting of strategic funding, hedging, investing, reinsuring, cross-selling, bundling of employment related services and other products and services; adoption of a diverse range of marketing techniques, marketing and co-marketing arrangements, premium collection methods, agency agreements; and distribution and licensing agreements related to the insurance policy~~.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein said premium is reduced for a renewal policy.

29. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein weighted risk reason codes are coupled with the personal data input in order to further evaluate individual responses.

30. (New) A computer system for generating an unemployment risk score for an individual employee, the system comprising:

a database for storing personal data related to said individual employee and national employment, unemployment, and economic data; and,

a computer for calculating an unemployment risk score for said individual employee based upon the collected personal data and the collected national employment, unemployment, and economic data stored in said database, said computer generating an unemployment insurance premium for the individual employee based on the calculated unemployment risk score.